

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

AID-05 MC-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 SCA-01 /080 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:JNACH:JES

APPROVED BY NEA:ADUBS

NEA/INS:DKUX

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R 101134Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087329

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: CALL OF INDIAN EMBASSY DCM VENKATESWARAN ON DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS

1. INDIAN EMBASSY DCM A.P. VENKATESWARAN, ACCOMPANIED BY
EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER RAJAN, CALLED ON NEA DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS APRIL 8 FOR A DISCUSSION OF ASPECTS
OF OUR SOUTH ASIA ARMS POLICY AND SEVERAL OTHER MATTERS
AFFECTING INDO-U.S. RELATIONS. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW.

2. U.S. ARMS AND BANGLADESH. AFTER REFERRING TO "REPORTS"
(PROBABLY THE RECENT LEW SIMONS ARTICLE IN THE WASHINGTON
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POST) THAT BANGLADESH WAS SEEKING U.S. ARMS SUPPLIES AND

COMMENTING THAT, IF TRUE, "THE POLITICAL CONNOTATIONS AND OVERTONES WOULD CONCERN US", VENKATESWARAN INQUIRED ABOUT PRESENT U.S. ARMS POLICY TOWARD BANGLADESH. DUBS REPLIED THAT USG DOES NOT WANT TO BECOME AN ARMS SUPPLIER TO BDG. OUR MAIN INTEREST IN BANGLADESH IS HUMANITARIAN AS REFLECTED IN OUR ECONOMIC AID AND FOOD ASSISTANCE.

3. DUBS FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISCUSSIONS IN DACCA ABOUT BDG ARMS NEEDS BUT THAT THE USG HAD NO REQUESTS FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS. WHILE WE DID NOT SEEK TO BE AN ARMS SUPPLIER, WE WOULD CONSIDER COMMERCIAL SALES FOR

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR INTERNAL SECURITY PURPOSES. IN REPLY TO VENKATESWARAN'S QUERY AS TO WHETHER THE BDG'S OBTAINING MONEY FROM "ELSEWHERE" MIGHT INFLUENCE OUR COMMERCIAL LICENSING POLICY, DUBS SAID THAT ALL LICENSING WOULD BE IN ACCORD WITH OUR STATED POLICY.

4. U.S. ARMS AND PAKISTAN. AT VENKATESWARAN'S REQUEST, DUBS WENT OVER USG SOUTH ASIA ARMS POLICY CITING BASIC GUIDELINES ANNOUNCED IN FEBRUARY 1975 AND FURTHER EXPLAINING THAT IN MAKING ANY DECISIONS WE WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE AMOUNT OF ARMS BEING SENT INTO SOUTH ASIA FROM OUTSIDE AND THE LEGITIMATE DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS OF THE REGION'S COUNTRIES.

5. VENKATESWARAN ASKED ABOUT THE PAK AIR FORCE TEAM'S FACTORY INSPECTION OF THE A-7, A-4, AND F-5E. DUBS EXPLAINED THAT BOTH GOP AND U.S. MANUFACTURERS FULLY UNDERSTOOD THAT VISITS DID NOT REPRESENT A USG DECISION TO PERMIT SALE OF THE AIRCRAFT INVOLVED AND THAT NO SALES REQUESTS WERE PENDING. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, DUBS ADDED THAT THE INDIANS WERE WELCOME TO LOOK OVER THE AIRCRAFT, TOO, IF THEY WISHED.

6. SIMLA PROCESS. APPARENTLY STUNG BY COMMENTS IN SENATOR MCGOVERN'S REPORT ON HIS SOUTH ASIA VISIT RELEASED APRIL 7 THAT HE WAS SORRY NOT TO FIND THE SAME CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE ON NORMALIZATION IN INDIA THAT HE FOUND IN PAKISTAN, CONFIDENTIAL

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VENKATESWARAN ASKED WHETHER STATE DEPARTMENT HAD SA;E IMPRESSION. DUBS REFERRED TO APPARENT INDIAN FOOT-DRAGGING ON REACHING A CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT WITH PAKS AND GOI'S RELUCTANCE TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. VENKATESWARAN DISPUTED THIS, AND TO LATTER POINT ASSERTED THAT A RESTORATION OF RELATIONS SHOULD HAVE A "MEANINGFUL PURPOSE" AND SHOULD "CROWN NORMALIZATION".

7. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY. VENKATESWARAN INFORMED US THAT GOI HAS REVOKED PASSPORT OF JANA SANGH RAJYA SABHA MEMBER SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY WHO OF LATE HAS BEEN LECTURING IN U.S. AGAINST EMERGENCY. HE SAID THAT SWAMY HAS BEEN MAKING "ALL KINDS OF MOST PECULIAR CHARGES" ABOUT ALLEGED TORTURE AND MISTREATMENT OF GOI'S OPPONENTS IN INDIA AND THAT THE GOI COULD NOT "UNDERSTAND, APPRECIATE OR TOLERATE" HIS ACTIVITIES HERE WHICH WERE "POISONING" FRIENDLY INDO-U.S. RELATIONS. VENKATESWARAN SAID EMBASSY HAD SENT DEPARTMENT A NOTE ASKING THAT "NO SERVICES BE RENDERED" ON SWAMY'S PASSPORT. WE OFFERED TO CHECK INTO CASE BUT DID NOT FURTHER COMMIT OURSELVES. (RAJAN TOLD US LATER THAT GOI'S ULTIMATE INTENTION WAS TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT SWAMY'S RE-

TURN TO INDIA.)

8. CHICAGO CONSULATE GENERAL. VENKATESWARAN SAID THAT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE HAD RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COSTS INVOLVED IN OPENING A CONSULATE GENERAL IN CHICAGO. PLANS ARE BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL THE ISSUE IS RESOLVED.

9. WE ARE POUCHING COPIES OF SENATOR MCGOVERN'S REPORT ON HIS SOUTH ASIA TRIP. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ARMS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE087329
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JNACH:JES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760140-0017
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760467/aaaacesh.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL OF INDIAN EMBASSY DCM VENKATESWARAN ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, IN, US, (VENKATESWARAN, A P), (DUBS, ADOLPH)
To: KABUL
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006